



# **COVINA-VALLEY**

## **UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**District Superintendent**  
Elizabeth Eminhizer, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**  
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December 11, 2020

Dear Covina-Valley,

I would like to extend my sincerest and deepest gratitude to our entire community - students, teachers, staff, and parents - for all you have done during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your dedication, compassion, and courage inspire me each and every day. Recent news of a forthcoming vaccine brings us hope for a better tomorrow, but unfortunately, we have to confront the realities of today.

On December 1, 2020, we welcomed small cohorts of students and staff back to in-person instruction. This was a very difficult decision for me, but I strongly believe that in-person instruction is vitally important for our students. It is even more important for high-need students, such as students with special needs and English Learners. Students have also been on campus for athletic conditioning, taking college tests, and other activities that can take place in small groups. Due to the hard work of many, our students were able to return safely to school, and our health and safety measures exceeded the standards set by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH).

In recent weeks, we have seen a dramatic surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County, the State of California, and throughout our country. During this time, we have been in close communication with LACDPH. They have encouraged local school districts to have students on campus, as schools have consistently proven that they exceed the health and safety standards and that there has not been significant COVID-19 transmission in schools. However, we have seen an increase in students and staff testing positive for COVID-19. Since December 1st we have sent several cohorts home to quarantine for 14 days due to a cohort member testing positive for COVID-19. We did this out of caution and in coordination with LACDPH. While there is no evidence these individuals contracted COVID-19 while at school,

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519 E. Badillo Street • Covina, California 91723  
626.974.7000 • FAX 626.974.7032  
[www.c-vusd.org](http://www.c-vusd.org)

the increased cases we see in our school community are concerning. Staff and student safety continues to be our highest priority.

That said, I have decided it is in our district's best interests to pause our in-person small group cohorts, athletics, child care, and tech pods from December 14, 2020, until January 15, 2021. Students in our small group cohorts will return to distance learning and will no longer come to school campuses. As with the decision to return students to school, this decision to return to distance learning was difficult. It is my hope that this will reduce stress for our students, parents, and staff. I also hope that by January, we will see an end to this surge and that the Regional Stay at Home Order will be rescinded.

I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and hope that you are able to find joy with your families and those you love. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact your child's school or the district office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Eminhizer".

Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer  
Superintendent of Schools